

Agricultural Education & The FFA In SC

Early Emphasis On Teaching Agriculture

The teaching of agriculture in the public schools of South Carolina was a major goal of the agricultural societies in the early 1800s. Only a few districts offered agriculture courses between 1900 and 1914.

L.M. Bauknight, a native of the Dutch Fork section of Lexington County, introduced the teaching of agriculture as early as 1908. He became school superintendent of the Fort Mill Academy in 1910, and began a search for a curricula that would meet the needs of more students. He was so pleased with the interest manifested by his students that he began a movement to have agriculture as an optional course in high schools. The concept was approved in 1911 and he sought funding from organizations to promote federal aid for agricultural education. He later became head of the agriculture department at Easley High School in 1919 and taught there for more than twenty-five years. Mr. Bauknight's son, the late L.M. "Frosty" Bauknight, was a distinguished professor of Agricultural Economics at Clemson University for many years.

J.M. Napier of Darlington County was also one of the first teachers of agriculture in South Carolina.

An Annual Report of the State Superintendent of Education indicates that by 1917 there were 7,194 white students and 6,400 African-American students studying agriculture in SC schools.

TOP: L.M. Bauknight, deceased, a pioneer leader in Agricultural Education **MIDDLE:** S.F. Horton, 91, of Loris, represented Jefferson H.S. at the 1927 State Future Palmetto Farmers Convention. In 1932 he graduated from Clemson with degrees in Agriculture Education and Animal Husbandry, and taught agriculture until 1946 when he entered into agribusiness and farming full time. He is still farming today. **BOTTOM:** Verd Peterson, deceased, was the first State Supervisor of Agricultural Education in SC.





Rock Hill Future Palmetto Farmer Chapter Float in the York County Fair Parade in the 1920's.



South Carolina Future Farmers of America members and advisors at a State Convention in Columbia, SC, in the early 1930's. The group visited the State Capitol.

The Smith-Hughes Act

On February 23, 1917, all of the pieces necessary for future success in agricultural education came together when President Woodrow Wilson signed the Smith-Hughes Act, which provided federal funds to be matched by state and local funds for salaries of teachers, supervisors and directors of agriculture in public schools.

The State Board of Education placed the responsibility for administering and supervising agricultural education in the hands of the State Supervisor. Verd Peterson, a native of West Virginia, was employed in 1917 as the first State Supervisor of Agricultural Education and served in that position for 29 years. Early duties of the state supervisor included qualifying teachers for certification, determining general curriculum needs for teacher training and in-service training.

The first agriculture teachers employed under the Federal Smith-Hughes Act and the South Carolina Smoak-Rector Act in 1917-18 were: T.M. Cathcart, Pendleton; W.T. Clearman, Hemingway; M.L. Eargle, Heath Springs; C.S. Folk, Wagener; J.C. Foster, Laurens; E. W. Garrison, Estill; W.R. Gray, Simpsonville; I.D. Lewis, Chapin; H.M. Lewis, Laurens; G.H. Pearce, Greeleyville; A.H. Ward, Orangeburg; and A.C. Whittle, Owings. The first two African-American agricultural education teachers employed later that school year were R.J. Crockett of Blacksburg and

State Leaders In Agricultural Education

State Supervisors Who Have Served SC

Verd Peterson	.....1917-1946
R.D. Anderson	.....1946-1954
W.E. Gore	.....1954-1965
P.G. Chastain	.....1965-1969
Frank R. Stover	.....1969-1984
Hugh P. McClimon	.....1984-1992
J. Earl Frick, Jr.	.....1992-1993
Dale A. Law	.....1993-1996
Tommy Gladden	.....1997 to present

Assistant State Supervisors:

E.W. Garis	.....1922-1924
W.H. Garrison	.....1924-1925
J.B. Monroe	.....1926-1927
W.H. Garrison	.....1927-1936
J.L. Sutherland	.....1936-1941
W.E. Gore	.....1946-1954
P.G. Chastain	
(Veterans Farm Training)	.....1948-1954
P.G. Chastain	.....1954-1965
L.L. Lewis	.....1965-1969
R.E. Naugher	
(Agricultural Occupations)	.....1965-1966
Hugh P. McClimon	
(Agricultural Occupations)	.....1968-1971

State Executive Secretaries of SC FFA and Young Farmer Association:

Frank L. Barton	.....1949-1959
L.L. Lewis	.....1959-1965
Frank R. Stover	.....1965-1969

State FFA Executive Secretaries

J. Earl Frick	.....1969-1994
John W. Parris	.....1995-1996
James Ulmer	.....1997-1999
Jim Scott	.....2000 to present

State Executive Secretaries Of The SC Young Farmer Association (now known as Young Farmer & Agribusiness Association):

Hugh P. McClimon	.....1969-1984
Tommy Gladden	.....1985-1988
Steve Willis	.....1988-1993
Stewart Glenn	.....1993-1995
Jay Copelan	.....1995-1997
Billy Keels	.....1997 to present

District (multi-county) Supervisors or Consultants of Agricultural Education

Upper State Region

E.R. Alexander	.....1937-1941
W.M. Mahony	.....1941-1970
Hugh P. McClimon	.....1971-1984
Philip M. Fravel	.....2001 to present

North Central Region

J.L. Sutherland	.....1937-1941
R.F. Palmer	.....1941-1945
P.G. Chastain	.....1946-1947
Frank L. Barton	.....1948-1949
W.M. Harris	.....1949-1983

Central Region

J.L. Sutherland	.....1936-1941
W.L. James	.....1941-1946
W.E. Gore	.....1946-1954
P.G. Chastain	.....1954-1965
L.L. Lewis	.....1965-1969
Tommy Gladden	.....1985-1986
Steve Willis	.....1988-1990
James Ulmer	.....1997-2000
Jim Scott	.....2000 to present

Lower State Region

R.D. Anderson	.....1937-1946
W.R. Carter	.....1946-1975
W.P. Lloyd	.....1975-1993

Pee Dee Region

R.E. Naugher	.....1931-1941
J.H. Yon	.....1941-1943
C.G. Zimmerman	.....1948-1964
L.J. Carter	.....1956-1975
Cecil Johnson	
(Assistant Supervisor)	.....1946-1966
J. Earl Frick	
(Assistant Supervisor)	.....1966-1969
J. Earl Frick	.....1969-1992
Billy Keels	.....1997 to present

Agricultural Education & The FFA In SC

The Smith-Hughes Act (continued)

G.W. Pegues of Bennettsville.

The success of agricultural education created a difficulty locating a sufficient number of teachers to fill the new programs. To help solve this dilemma, the Agricultural Teacher Training Program at Clemson College was established in the fall of 1917 with ten students. The teacher education program at Clemson became a four-year program in 1928. Five hundred and forty-one students completed the four-year program over the next thirty years. A similar program was established at South Carolina State College.

The first multi-county agricultural education supervisor, R.E. Naugher, a native of Mississippi, was appointed in 1931 to provide guidance to high school agricultural education programs in several Pee Dee counties. In 1937 Congress passed the George-Dean Act, which provided funding for multi-county supervisors, and five positions were filled to serve the entire state.



W.E. Gore (center), the third State Supervisor of Vocational Agriculture in South Carolina, 1954-65; with R.E. Naugher (left), first District Supervisor of Vocational Agriculture in South Carolina, 1931-41, before being employed by the US Office of Education in Washington, DC; and L.L. Lewis, State FFA Executive Secretary, who later served as State Director of Vocational Education until his retirement.



The Future Farmers Of America Organized

As agricultural education programs began to expand activities at the high school level, students organized into clubs and participated in competitive events such as livestock and dairy judging. Prior to 1928, the agricultural education student organization was known as the Future Palmetto Farmers. Two student delegates, Wallace Grant and Carl Smoak, represented South Carolina at a meeting in Kansas City, Missouri, where Future Farmers of America, similar to the South Carolina and Virginia organizations, was established in 1928.

The newly created national organization for students of agriculture received a lot of interest and support, because it brought youth together under one national umbrella. South Carolina was the fifth state to join and by November 1929, 35 states had joined.



LEFT: W.E. Gore (left), a former State Supervisor of Vocational Agriculture, with Paul G. Chastain, who followed Mr. Gore as State Supervisor at an Awards Ceremony in 1966. RIGHT: W.M. Mahony of Anderson, a vocational agriculture teacher and later a District Supervisor of Vocational Agriculture for 29 years, served the profession with distinction for 50 years. He was affectionately known as the "Dean of Vocational Agriculture."

World War II and Agricultural Education



he 1940s found agricultural education progressing through scientific instruction in farm production, agricultural mechanics and engineering. The United States' entry into World War II created an unprecedented demand for skill labor, efficiency and self-sufficiency despite shortages of labor and machinery. FFA members rose to the challenge.

In a telegram to FFA delegates attending the National Convention in 1943, President Roosevelt said, "Congratulations to the Future Farmers of America. Your work on the farm front is vital to our success on the battle fronts of the world."

To show their support for the war effort and in recognition of former FFA members in the military, South Carolina FFA members and chapters purchased \$935,841.96 in War Bonds and Stamps. In addition, FFA members planted Victory Gardens and collected scrap metal and rubber for recycling. During the war, Orangeburg High School Agricultural Education Teacher M.P. Black and the FFA members with the assistance of one hired helper produced enough food on 12 acres to keep the Orangeburg school lunch rooms open. They were the only ones in the state to remain open during that difficult time in our history.

During those challenging times of economic depression and war, agricultural education departments in SC operated community canneries. As far back as 1936, Agricultural Education Teacher H.A. Chapman of Mauldin, emphasized the importance of community canneries. The Blaney High School agriculture department cannery anticipated canning 20,000 quarts of food for lunch room programs in 1944. Agriculture teachers throughout the state will long be remembered for their leadership in quality food processing in the canneries.

The end of World War II brought many changes to society and to education. The rise of urbanization, increased dependence upon mechanization in farming and the sheer numbers of returning veterans were just a few of the change agents. In 1951 Greenville County offered agriculture programs in 15 high schools, requiring 14 full-time and 9 part-time teachers. By 1956 agriculture programs had expanded into every county in the state with 321 departments and 336 teachers serving more than 11,000 students daily. That number of students increased to more than 13,000 by 1959 and by 1967 there were 16,563 agricultural students enrolled in South Carolina's public schools.



Governor Robert E. McNair visits with Paul G. Chastain (right), State Supervisor of Vocational Agriculture Education; Frank R. Stover, Jr. (left), State FFA Executive Secretary; and Robert Rish, State FFA President; in the Governor's Office in 1966.



Earl Frick (right), State FFA Executive Secretary and later State Supervisor of Agriculture Education (now retired), with Drefus Williams (second from right), Agriculture Education teacher at Furman-Manchester High School, Sumter, SC, (now retired); National FFA President Jimmy Alvarez; and William J. Harvin, Jr., (left), State FFA Secretary in 1973-74, one of the first African-American FFA members elected to a state FFA office in SC.



The United States Post Office issued an official postage stamp in recognition of the 25th anniversary of the National Future Farmers of America in 1953.

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The Veterans Training Program

After World War II many agricultural education departments in South Carolina organized adult training programs for returning veterans. Many of these veterans received financial assistance to attend the agricultural education classes.

An example of the scope and magnitude of the Veterans Training Program can be found in a 1951 masters thesis by George McKenzie, one of South Carolina's most outstanding agricultural educators. He reported that in the area covered by his study, instruction was focused to guide young men into successful and established farming operations. He found that 50 percent of the students were below the state average in educational attainment, with less than seven years of school. The results of the program were impressive – a 200 percent increase in farm ownership and the number of renters decreased by 27 percent. Nearly one half of the veterans enrolled in the training built new barns and one in six built new homes.

Frank L. Barton Named State FFA Executive Secretary

The growth in high school vocational agriculture following World War II resulted in increased membership and expanded programs for the Future Farmers of America in South Carolina. In 1949 the State Department of Education promoted District Supervisor Frank L. Barton, a former vocational agriculture teacher at Woodruff High School in Spartanburg County, to a newly created position as State Executive Secretary of the FFA. Mr. Barton was instrumental in advancing the public information program of the FFA in the state through the South Carolina *Future Farmer-Young Farmer* magazine. He was also successful in securing increased financial support from the private sector for Future Farmer of America and Young Farmer Association contests and awards at the region and state levels. Mr. Barton had demonstrated his skill in public relations at Woodruff High School prior to being named a District Supervisor of Vocational Agriculture. He was a leader in the establishment of the Belk-Hudson Company-sponsorship of the Future Farmers of America Purebred Swine Production Program and other events which caught the attention and support of the business community and the news media. Mr. Barton served as State Executive Secretary of the SC Future Farmers of America and SC Young Farmers Association for ten years. He resigned from the State Department of Education to join the Federal Land Bank where he served as vice president for a number of years before retirement. The Federal Land Bank is now the AgFirst Farm Credit Bank, headquartered in Columbia, SC.



Frank L. Barton, first State FFA Executive Secretary. Mr. Barton was named to this position in 1949 and served for ten years.

Agricultural Education & The FFA In SC

South Carolina's Floyd D. Johnson Provides National Leadership



Floyd D. Johnson (right), with Dr. John Rogers (left), then President of the SC Agricultural Educators Association and later as Head of the Agricultural Education Department at Clemson University; Verd Peterson, retired State Supervisor of Vocational Agriculture in South Carolina; Dr. Jesse T. Anderson, State Superintendent of Education; and William E. Gore, State Supervisor of Vocational Agriculture in South Carolina.

In the 1960s Floyd D. Johnson, agricultural education teacher at York High School, served as a vocational education advisor to U.S. Presidents John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson. His influence and guidance played a major role in the passage by Congress of the Vocational Education Act of 1963. The act was instrumental in improving and expanding agricultural education by permitting flexibility to better align programs with the occupational needs in the agricultural industry. No other individual in Agricultural Education was more closely associated with the development of the Vocational Education Act of 1963 than Mr. Johnson. As the only member of the President's Panel for Vocational Education directly from Agricultural Education, he saw first-hand the developing ideas of the Act. As a member of the American Vocational Association Executive Committee, he was close to the problems involved in the passage of the Act, especially keeping agriculture in the picture.

Commenting on the Act, Mr. Johnson said: "Many leaders in the field of vocational education in agriculture consider it the most comprehensive vocational measure to become law in the history of our nation."

This Act expanded the Smith-Hughes and George-Barden Acts to permit instruction for occupations which require a knowledge and skill of agricultural subjects. Mr. Johnson recognized the importance of agricultural education in helping meet needs and strengthen the agriculture industry. He was a man with a vision who possessed the "people skills" to get the job done.

South Carolina Young Farmer Association Organized

From the very beginning, adult training has been a vital and integral part of the agricultural education program. In 1948 when the funding ended for the Veterans Farm Training, a group of 50 agricultural education teachers and young farmers met in Columbia to organize the South Carolina Young Farmers Association. A charter for the organization was received from the Secretary of State in 1949, and federal and state tax exempt status was secured later. South Carolina was the first state in the eastern United States to organize a state young farmer association and third in the nation, behind California and Utah.

In recent years the state Young Farmer Association changed its name to the South Carolina Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association and now has the second largest membership of any state



LEFT: Senator T. Ed Garrison of Anderson, SC, was a successful dairy farmer and distinguished State Senator until his retirement. He served as President of the SC Young Farmer Association and was named the Outstanding Young Farmer in South Carolina. The T. Ed Garrison Livestock Arena at Clemson University is named in his honor as a result of his outstanding support of Clemson and South Carolina agriculture. **RIGHT:** Roger Estridge, Agricultural Education Teacher at Andrew Jackson High School, Kershaw, SC, served as President of the National Young Farmer Education Association in 2000. He and his brother, Roy, own and operate a farm in Anderson County.



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SC Young Farmer Association Organized

(continued)

in the National Young Farmer Education Association.

Roger Estridge of Anderson was elected President of the National Young Farmer Association for 2000-2001. In 2001 Edsel Williams, Executive Treasurer of the South Carolina Association, Britton's Neck, was elected Secretary of the National group and Billy Keels, Florence, Regional Coordinator for Agricultural Education in the Pee Dee Region and Executive Director of the South Carolina Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association, was also elected to the National Young Farmer Board of Directors.

Along with the FFA, South Carolina Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association co-sponsors a golf tournament at Clemson University on the opening day of the State FFA Convention. The association awards two college scholarships annually to FFA members planning to attend Clemson University and major in agriculture. The state association has hosted two National Young Farmer Educational Institutes in recent years.

National FFA Gets Federal Charter

In 1950 Congress passed Public Law 740 which granted a Federal Charter to the FFA, making the organization an integral part of agricultural education. This law authorized the use of Federal funds to support FFA activities.

R.D. Anderson, South Carolina's State Supervisor of Agricultural Education at that time, was serving on the National FFA Board of Directors and played a major role in the passage of this critical legislation. Mr. Anderson retired as State Director of Vocational Education.

The Future Farmers of America Organization provided incentives for students to practice the knowledge and skills learned in the agricultural education classroom, laboratories and on-the-job training as a part of their supervised agricultural experiences. Agricultural teachers further assisted the students by visiting them on their farms or their places of employment in agri-business. FFA activities included leadership training, public speaking,

parliamentary procedure, community development projects, recreation and more.



R. D. Anderson served as District Supervisor of Vocational Agriculture 1937-46. In 1946 he became the State Supervisor of Vocational Agriculture and served that position until 1954 when he became State Director of Vocational Education.



FFA and NFA Camps Established

Recreation for FFA members became a major objective of the South Carolina Association. In 1928 the local Rotary clubs donated 50 acres of land in the mountains of Oconee County for the first FFA Camp.

In 1930 another camp was established on the coast near Bluffton. The Murrells Inlet camp was started in 1936 and the Dentsville camp was created years later. All of this was made possible by FFA fundraising efforts. During the mid-1930s Thomas Cades, an African-American businessman, donated sixty acres of land near Orangeburg for construction of a camp for African-American students. J.P. Burgess and W.W. Wilkins, along with SC State College, provided leadership for construction of buildings and recreation facilities.

Others who were instrumental in the development of the Orangeburg camp included Dr. M.F. Whittaker, President of SC State College, and Verd Peterson, State Supervisor of Agricultural Education.

In the early 1950s it became apparent that the camping program and facilities would have to be upgraded. The Bluffton and Murrell's Inlet camps were sold and property near North Myrtle Beach was purchased to develop a state-of-the-art facility near Cherry Grove Beach. In order to get the necessary facilities, the SC FFA Association donated the property to the state of South Carolina in exchange for a \$250,000 state appropriation to build dormitories, a gymnasium, dining hall and other buildings.

The South Carolina FFA Foundation Is Established

In 1975 the Cherry Grove FFA Camp was the only FFA camp in operation. It became apparent that the other camps would never operate again and the land would no longer be needed.

About this same time, the State Highway Department condemned a portion of the Dentsville FFA Camp property for the I-20 and I-77 junction east of Columbia. The value of property had increased over the years and the proceeds of the sale of this property, if placed in the State FFA Association account, would jeopardize the Federal tax status for which the association was exempt under 501 (c) (3) of the federal tax codes.

Frank R. Stover, Sr., then State Supervisor of Agricultural Education, working with the FFA Association attorneys Mike and Wallace Tighe, secured a charter and tax exemption status to establish the South Carolina FFA Foundation in 1975. All camp properties owned by the FFA were transferred to the FFA Foundation, eventually sold and the proceeds invested.

The make-up of the SC FFA Foundation Board of Directors was altered in 1984 to comply with state requirements for educational foundations administered by state agencies. Mr. Stover, who retired that same year, was asked to continue management of the foundation as executive director. Agricultural Education supervisory staff members serving on the foundation board were replaced with retired supervisors, educators and agriculture teachers.

Allocations made to the State FFA Association for programs and activities by the foundation amount to approximately \$260,000 annually. The foundation also sponsors a Forgivable Loan Program for Agricultural Education students at Clemson and provides graduate assistantships for students who have completed their work and want to teach agriculture.

State and National FFA Conventions



State FFA Officers and other delegate (left to right) Eric Hill, Secretary, Abbeville, SC; Josh Shea, Vice President, Calhoun Falls, SC; Jennifer Perdue, Vice President, McBee, SC; Ashley Granata, Vice President, Pickens, SC; Josh Laws, Official Delegate, Westminster, SC; and Kyle Hatcher, President, Anderson, SC, at the 2001 National FFA Convention in Louisville, Kentucky.



Frank R. Stover, Sr., Executive Director of the SC FFA Foundation, presented a check for \$1 million to the SC FFA Leadership Center to launch the capital campaign for the development of a multi-million dollar facility. Carrie West, State FFA President, 1999-2000, received the check.

Two cottages were also constructed by the association to be used for storage of lifeguard equipment and as a gathering point for the students.

Under the leadership and guidance of John W. Parris, State Director of Public Affairs with the SC FFA, the State Budget and Control Board in 2000 approved a 40-year lease, with option to renew, transferring the Cherry Grove Camp to the SC FFA Association with full authority to use, operate and develop the facility. Shortly after that action, the SC FFA Foundation contributed \$1 million to launch the capital campaign to develop the camp into the SC FFA Leadership Center.



This is the original vocational agriculture teachers cottage at the former Bluffton Future Farmers of America Camp. Purchased by the late H.O. Tyler, Vocational Agriculture Teacher, Allendale, he and his family restored the building. His family continues to use it.

Agricultural Education & The FFA In SC

State and National FFA Conventions

(continued)

State and National FFA Conventions are held each year to carry out business of the associations and provide members with an opportunity to compete in various career development and leadership activities. State conventions have been held in Columbia and Cherry Grove, but in recent years they have been held at Clemson.

For over 70 years the National FFA Convention was held in Kansas City, Missouri, until recently when it was moved to Louisville, Kentucky. Former FFA members from South Carolina who have served as national FFA officers include Jimmy Willis, National FFA Secretary in 1952-53; Joe Hughes, National Vice President in 1959-60; and Robert Rish, National Vice President in 1966-67.



LEFT: Robert Rish, National FFA Vice President, addressed the 1967 National FFA Convention. A member of the Pelion Chapter, he also served as State FFA President. RIGHT: Cayce Adams, an Indian Land High School FFA member, competing in the State FFA Nursery/Landscape Career Development Event held in conjunction with the State FFA Convention at Clemson.



Agricultural Education Program Growing

Agricultural education programs are in nearly 100 high schools throughout the state. The number of students enrolled is increasing each year and the curriculum is being expanded to reflect current needs. Course offerings include landscape technology, golf course management, turf production and management, nursery operations, greenhouse operation and management, equine science, agricultural engineering, wildlife management, small animal care, natural resource management and agricultural science.

Student enrollment in Agriculture at Clemson is at an all-time high. The increase in agriculture majors is expected to continue throughout colleges in the state.

FFA membership has increased by twenty percent over the past five years and new programs are being added in rural and urban schools. Adult agricultural education programs are on the increase with new young farmer and agribusiness chapters being organized annually.



Harry Dubose (right), Agricultural Education Teacher at Carolina Forest High School and advisor of the Myrtle Beach FFA Chapter, with Bradley Allen, Chapter President, at the 2002 FFA chapter-sponsored Golf Tournament.

Ag Education Program Transferred

During the early 1990s the State Department of Education reduced the staff supervising agricultural education programs in South Carolina to one person. Key leaders in the agriculture and education community initiated an effort to transfer the administration and supervision of agricultural education from the State Department of Education to Clemson University's College of Agriculture, Forestry and Life Sciences. The South Carolina General Assembly and the Governor overwhelmingly supported this effort, and legislation was enacted in 1996 to provide state funding for additional supervisory and support staff and to transfer the program to Clemson University.



Governor David Beasley with agricultural education officials and supporters at a 1996 ceremony where he signed into law legislation transferring the Agricultural Education Program from the State Department of Education to Clemson University. Participants include (left to right) Pat Earle, Agriculture Teacher, McBee; Elizabeth Burdette, State FFA President; Hugh Bland, Agriculture Teacher, Edgefield; John W. Parris; Governor Beasley; Michael Haynes, Agriculture Teacher, Manning; State Senator Nikki Setzler, Lexington; Scott Gantt, State FFA Secretary, Pelion; and Benjie Rhoad, SC Farm Bureau Federation.

The SC Agricultural Education Magazine

Perhaps no group of individuals has made a greater contribution to agricultural education in South Carolina than the editors of the *Future Farmer-Young Farmer* magazine (now known as *AGRIBIZ*). The magazine provides a detailed history of many of the activities conducted by the two associations.



Hugh McClimon (right), retired State Supervisor of Agricultural Education and Chairman of the SC FFA Foundation, with Wilbur McCarthy, retired Editor of the SC *Future Farmer and Young Farmer* magazine.

Stories and photographs highlight state and national convention participation, career development events sponsored by both associations, as well as features on members, agricultural educators and the agricultural industry. Most notable among the editors are Jim Whitten, Wilbur McCarthy, W.M. Harris and John W. Parris.

The retired executive director of the South Carolina Land Resources Commission, Parris serves as the Executive Director of Public Affairs for the SC FFA Association and editor of *AGRIBIZ* – The South Carolina Agricultural Education Magazine.

SC Agricultural Educators Association and Clemson's Collegiate FFA Organization

The South Carolina Agricultural Educators Association and the Clemson University Collegiate FFA Organization are increasing in membership and are conducting numerous programs to enhance agricultural education. The Agricultural Educators Association co-sponsors the annual Plant Presentation Program to provide flowering plants from agricultural education departments throughout the state to landscape and beautify the grounds around the State House. The Clemson Collegiate FFA group sponsors the Agricultural Olympics, assists with the State Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association-FFA Golf Tournament, numerous State FFA Career Development Events, and provide staff for the State FFA Exhibit at the National FFA Convention.



Ben Hardee (left), Agriculture Teacher, Loris, was honored for his leadership in securing state legislation to transfer the administration of Agricultural Education from the State Department of Education to Clemson. Barry Burdette, Agriculture Teacher at Golden Strip Technology Center, Greenville, was also recognized for his leadership in securing additional state appropriations through the SC General Assembly for the twelve month contracts for Agricultural Educators in SC schools.



Clemson's College of Agriculture, Forestry and Life Sciences staff (left to right), Kim Erwin, Student Services Manager; Kirby Player, Director of Alumni and Student Services; Amy Sanders, Advising Coordinator; with Darren Atkins, Agricultural Education Graduate Assistant and Dr. Tom Dobbins, Associate Professor of Agricultural Education and Collegiate FFA Advisor. The Clemson Collegiate FFA members are in charge of the South Carolina FFA Association Exhibit at the national FFA convention which is attended by 50,000 members and guests from throughout the nation annually.

Information for this history article, pages 2-11, was contributed by Frank R. Stover, Sr., and P.M. Fravel.



LEFT: Frank R. Stover, Sr., retired State Supervisor of Agricultural Education, is Executive Director of the SC FFA Foundation. RIGHT: Phillip M. Fravel, Regional Coordinator and Faculty Member, Agricultural Education Program, Clemson.

A History Of Murrells Inlet And Cherry Grove Camps

By Earl Frick



Murrells Inlet Camp

Hioti C. Edens grew up in Pickens County, but made an early move to the coast to begin an exciting career in Agricultural Education and FFA Camping.

In 1937 Mr. Edens began the dual role as agriculture teacher at Myrtle Beach High School and Director of the Murrells Inlet FFA Camp. According to Mr. Edens, every FFA chapter in the state made contributions to acquire the two-story frame building and lot in Murrells Inlet for \$5,000.

The Murrells Inlet Camp accommodated 92 boys (before girls could belong to the FFA), and the demand was so great the camp operated seven days a week all summer with two sessions each week. Approximately 1300 students attended the program in 1937.

In the early days, campers brought their own food such as sugar, salt, grits and vegetables, eggs, live chickens and country-cured hams. Since there were no refrigerators or freezers, those items were canned or eaten fresh. The Murrells Inlet Camp did not have conveniences such as running water, electric lights, iceboxes, sinks or stoves. Cured firewood, water and ice were furnished for the campers. The camp remained active through the summer of 1956. Joe Stevens, a graduate in Agricultural Education from Clemson, was employed in 1950 as the Assistant Camp Director and caretaker.

Cherry Grove Camp

In the early 1950s Lewis J. Carter, vocational agriculture teacher at Wampee (now North Myrtle Beach) High School, visited a student who lived where the Cherry Grove FFA Camp is now located. Realizing the potential of the site, Mr. Carter persuaded the FFA leaders to purchase 30.13 acres from J.B. and Frances W. Brown on October 24, 1953. An additional 4.3 acres were acquired later on the southwest corner of the property.

Once the property was purchased, FFA members and their agricultural education teachers descended on the State House to seek state funds to build the facilities. The Legislators were eager to assist but could not provide funding unless the property belonged to the state. The property was deeded to the State of South Carolina and the Legislature appropriated \$250,000 to construct the buildings on the site which became known as the Cherry Grove FFA Camp. The state provided some funds for upkeep and maintenance but the SC FFA Association and Foundation assumed all upkeep and renovations in the mid-1960s.

Mr. Edens moved from Murrells Inlet to Cherry Grove when the camp opened in 1957 to serve as Camp Director and teach agriculture at Wampee (North Myrtle) High School. Mr. Stevens also moved to the new camp and remained there until his death in

LEFT: Murrells Inlet FFA Camp. **RIGHT:** Mrs. Mary B. Lewis (left) of Batesburg-Leesville, wife of the late L.L. Lewis and Mrs. Ruth Carter of Florence, wife of the late Lewis J. Carter, at Cherry Grove FFA Camp. Mr. Lewis was a former State FFA Executive Secretary and State Director of Vocational Education. Mr. Carter located the property and encouraged the State FFA Association leaders to purchase it for an FFA Camp in the early 1950's. **OPPOSITE PAGE:** Cherry Grove FFA Camp Dormitories before 2000.

1974. Mr. Stevens was a very talented man who helped insure the success of the camp.

A special tribute of thanks goes to H.C. Edens for a long and distinguished career as an FFA Camp Director from 1937 until his retirement in 1994. He was instrumental in establishing, maintaining and improving the Cherry Grove facility. During his tenure, tennis courts were constructed, a swimming pool installed and the cafeteria air-conditioned. He was an inspirational leader who will long be remembered and appreciated for his lasting contributions to the FFA Camping Program in South Carolina.

Earl Frick served as the State FFA Executive Secretary and State Consultant for Agricultural Education in SC, 1970-1993. He is a member of the SC FFA Foundation Board of Directors.

Early FFA and NFA Camp History In South Carolina

By Billy Keels



At one time the South Carolina FFA Association owned camps from the mountains to the coast – including locations at Bluffton, Dentsville, Tamasee, and Murrell's Inlet. The Dentsville property provided those traveling from the mountains to the Atlantic ocean with a place to stop and rest. The Cherry Grove facility did not exist until the mid-1950s.

The South Carolina Association of the New Farmers of America, the organization for African-American students, owned and

FFA camping programs in years past were not that much different from today.

operated the camp near Orangeburg until the FFA and NFA merged.

The camp properties were purchased with donations from families, friends, advisors and members of the program. In Oconee County, the Rotary Clubs of Walhalla, Westminster and Seneca purchased the property for the Tamasee

Camp and donated it to the South Carolina FFA Association in 1929.

When the property for the Cherry Grove Camp was purchased, W.E. Gore, State

The young men would spend the day fishing, playing horseshoes, volleyball or baseball.

Supervisor of Vocational Agriculture, informed each FFA chapter what their share of funds owed was and it became the chapters responsibility to fulfill their obligation. FFA members raised the funds needed by selling seed, scrap metal, and other items. In a short time, the money was raised and the property purchased.

FFA camping programs in years past were not that much different from today. The young men would spend the day fishing, playing horseshoes, volleyball or baseball. At the Tamasee Camp the students would travel to Seneca to see a movie, and At Murrell's Inlet they visited Brookgreen Gardens. In the early years of

the Cherry Grove Camp there was an evening dance at the Future Homemakers Camp nearby.

The camping programs of years past were outstanding for young people. For students to visit the coast or travel to the mountains was an opportunity that few others enjoyed. Today's FFA camping program is designed to provide students enrolled in agricultural education similar opportunities. Our vision is to build on the experiences of the past and expand the learning opportunities through the new leadership center at Cherry Grove.

Billy Keels is a Regional Coordinator of Agricultural Education with Clemson University headquartered at the Pee Dee Research and Education Center, Florence. He is also the Director of the Cherry Grove FFA Leadership Center in North Myrtle Beach.

Agriculture Teacher Education & Training In South Carolina

By Dr. Lloyd H. Blanton

South Carolina's training program for agriculture teachers began at Clemson College* and SC State College* in 1917 under the direction of Verd Peterson, State Supervisor of Agricultural Education. At the beginning, the teacher training program was two-years until 1928 when it was expanded to four.

The agriculture teacher training program at South Carolina State College* was discontinued in 1965. Clemson has maintained a continuous program since 1917 primarily for pre-service preparation for certification to teach.

In the 1960s the training program became known as teacher education and is a joint interest of Clemson University and the Supervisory** staff of Agricultural Education.

Teachers have always relied on supervisors to help determine the curriculum and the effectiveness of programs to adequately prepare agriculture teachers.

Prospective agriculture teachers have always taken courses which prepared them to plan lessons required for community-based programs.

Since the beginning of agricultural education, supervisors have been responsible for scheduling in-service training at the region and state levels. Most of the training is carried out by college faculty with the advice and consent of supervisors. From a practical standpoint, the strengths of teachers and their programs are related to the quality and timeliness of in-service education; therefore, teacher educators and supervisors place a premium on in-service training.

Teacher education/training focuses on College of Agriculture majors – such as animal husbandry, horticulture, agricultural mechanization,

In recent years the mission has expanded to prepare graduates for employment in the Cooperative Extension Service and other public service areas where similar communication skills and technological training are required.

agronomy, forestry and agricultural economics. Prospective agriculture teachers have always taken courses which prepared them to plan lessons required for community-based programs. These technical courses and agricultural education courses lead to certification by the State Department of Education. Accrediting agencies have called for the col-



LEFT: Dr. Lloyd H. Blanton served as member of the Department of Agricultural Education faculty from 1972 until 1995. He was Head of the Department when he retired. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the SC FFA Foundation. **RIGHT:** Dr. Glen C. Shinn served as Head of the Department of Ag Ed at Clemson University 1988-93. He is now Head of Department of Agricultural Education at Texas A & M University.

lege's agricultural education program to work in harmony with the College of Education. As a result, pre-service education is viewed as technically and pedagogically sound for recruiting, teaching and preparing candidates for certification.

In most states, the primary function of the agriculture teacher education program is to prepare students to teach, but in recent years the mission has expanded to prepare graduates for employment in the Cooperative Extension Service and other public service areas where similar communication skills and technological training are required.

* Clemson University and South Carolina State University

** State Leader of Agricultural Education and Regional Coordinators



LEFT: Professor Frank E. Kirkley was on the Agricultural Education Department faculty at Clemson University from 1941-71. **RIGHT:** Dr. Lowery H. Davis served as Department Head 1959-70.



W.C. "Billy" Bowen, at 90, and wife, Mrs. Nancy K. Bowen, at the State FFA Leadership Center in 2000. Professor Bowen was on the Agricultural Education Department faculty at Clemson University from 1937-72.



Dr. James H. Daniels served as Head of the Department of Agricultural Education at Clemson from 1976 to 1988. He became Executive Director of Governmental Affairs for Clemson and served in that capacity until he became Chancellor at the University of Arkansas Community College, Batesville, Arkansas recently. He was awarded the Honorary American FFA Degree at the National FFA Convention upon the recommendation of the SC FFA Association.

Agriculture Teacher Educators/Trainers 1917-2002

Teacher Educators/Trainers at Clemson University:

Verd Peterson*1917-22
 W.C. Crandall*1918-46
 O.M. Clark1919-20
 Albert Barnett1920-21
 T.K. Sisk, Sr.1921-25
 W.H. Washington*1925-27
 Thomas L. Ayers*1927-34
 I.W. Duggan1930-31
 A.J. Paulus1931-34
 J.B. Monroe*1934-59
 B.H. Stribling1934-60
 Dr. Thomas A. White1937-59
 W.C. (Billy) Bowen1937-72

Frank E. Kirkley1941-71
 T.E. Duncan1943-48
 Dr. Lowery H. Davis*1959-70
 Dr. John H. Rogers1960-65
 Dr. Earl T. Carpenter*1968-80
 Dr. Arthur K. Jensen1962-67
 Dr. J. Alex Hash1965-92
 Dr. John H. Rogers*1968-88
 Dr. Richard E. Linhardt ...1971-75
 Dr. Walter Cameron1971-71
 Dr. Llyod H. Blanton*1972-95
 Dr. J.H. Daniels*1976-88
 Dr. Jack R. Mercer1980-93

Dr. Glen C. Shinn*1988-93
 Dr. Curtis White**1989-present
 Dr. Joe G. Harper1990-98
 Dr. Richard W. Poling1991-93
 Dr. Thomas Dobbins1998-present
 Dr. Dale Layfield1999-present
 Phillip M. Fravel2001-present
 (A.K. Jensen and R.J. Mercer were key agricultural education faculty with the South Carolina Vocational Media Center in addition to years of services shown above.)

Teacher Educators/Trainers at South Carolina State University:

Benjamin F. Hubert1918-20
 F. Marcellus Staley1920-25
 H.E. Sutton1925-26
 J.P. Burgess1926-44, 1947-48
 (US Army 1944-47)

Gabe Buckman1937-51
 Dr. Taber G. DeCosta1946-47
 W.F. Hickson1949-52
 Dr. M.N. Sullivan1952-60
 Dr. B.F. Murvin1960-65

* Served as Department Head or Chair

** Served as Interim Department Head, July 1995-June 1997

This article was contributed by Dr. Lloyd H. Blanton, retired Department Head of Agricultural Education at Clemson University.

A Brief History Of The New Farmers Of America

By Drefus Williams

The Federal Board for Vocational Education was organized in 1917-18. Thirty five all-day departments of vocational agriculture were placed in Negro Schools throughout the south. Between 1929 and 1930, 19,555 students and adults were being served in the southern states. Seventeen states in the south had separate teacher training institutions for preparing teachers of agriculture for Negro schools.

At first it was nearly impossible to get a sufficient number of trained agriculture teachers so many teachers were placed in the schools with little preparation. After a period of time the teacher training institutions were preparing a sufficient number of teachers for the Negro schools. At this time thirteen of the seventeen southern states with separate schools had itinerant teacher trainers.

In 1935, the late Dr. H. O. Sargent made arrangements to hold the first National meeting of the New Farmers of America at Tuskegee Institute in Alabama.

The Negro students of vocational agriculture had an organization known as the New Farmers of America (NFA). Organized in Virginia in May 1927, the New Farmers of Virginia Chapters held their first meeting and rally at Virginia State College in Petersburg and the first sectional meeting was held in 1928. At this meeting the Washington Section of the NFA was formed with North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia. Maryland, West Virginia and New Jersey were added later.

The Almot section was formed later including Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Oklahoma and Texas. The Sargent Section was then formed consisting of Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Tennessee and Kentucky. The sectional organizations held annual meetings in various states from 1928 until 1935. The idea of a National Organization of New Farmers of America had been growing and at a meeting in Orangeburg, SC, in 1929, advisors from the Washington and Sargent Sections agreed that a national organization was highly desirable and necessary for securing the best results from the state associations and promoting vocational agriculture in the Negro schools in the south.

In 1935, the late Dr. H. O. Sargent made arrangements to hold the first National meeting of the New Farmers of America at Tuskegee Institute in Alabama. In August of that year, representatives from the Southern State

Associations met and formed the national organization of Negro farm boys who were enrolled in vocational agriculture known as the New Farmers of America.

In 1965, following the passage of the Civil Rights Act, the New Farmers of America merged with the National Future Farmers of America Organization with the goal of expanding leadership training, promoting cooperation and inspiring citizenship awareness for all of the nation's youth enrolled in agricultural education. Today it is known as the National FFA, America's premier agricultural youth organization.

Drefus Williams, one of South Carolina's most distinguished Agricultural Educators, is now retired and living in Sumter with his family.

Information for this article was taken from "Progress in Negro Schools" by H.O. Sargent, Federal Agent for Agricultural Education, Southern Region; "The Guide for NFA, The National Organization for Students Studying Vocational Agriculture"; "Handbook on Teaching Vocational Agriculture" by Phipps and Cook, Sixth Edition (1952).

Important Leaders In The New Farmers Of America

African-American students enrolled in agricultural education organized the South Carolina Association of New Farmers of America (NFA). The NFA became a national organization until the Future Farmers of America and the New Farmers of America became one in 1965. A South Carolinian, William Jones, served as National President of the NFA organization in 1954-55.

The first state advisor of the New Farmers of America was J.R. Burgess who served under the direction of Verd Peterson, State Supervisor of Agricultural Education. Other state advisors of the NFA in South Carolina included W.A. White of Gray Court; D.T. Robinson of Great Branch; C.H. McLeod of Elloree; G.A. Anderson of Fountain Inn; Gabe Buckman and W.F. Hickson of South Carolina State College. B.F. Murvin, South Carolina State College, served as the state executive secretary in the 1960's before the New Farmers merged with the Future Farmers of America.



My Experience In The Future Farmers Of America

By Jimmy Willis

Fifty years ago the FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA was a young, vigorous, growing organization of young men studying vocational agriculture in America's public schools.

My vocational agriculture teacher and FFA Advisor at McColl High School in Marlboro County was George McKenzie. The first year I earned the FFA Greenhand Degree by completing a home project, joining in classroom activities, participating in outside activities and surviving a severe initiation ceremony. The Chapter Farmer Degree came at the end of my second year.

Under Mr. Mac's direction the McColl FFA members were very active. We learned about the latest scientific methods of farming by reading *Progressive Farmer* and *Farm and Ranch* magazines. Each member had at least two projects, ranging from gardening to major farming enterprises. Some of our chapter activities included building a community cannery and planting pine seedlings. We also did radio shows to gain support for our programs. We participated in numerous judging contests and showed livestock at the State Fair.

We learned Robert's Rules of Order which we used in all of our FFA and other school meetings. The chapter made money by marketing candy and soft drinks in a small canteen. Our major fund raiser was unloading a car load of coal and hauling it to the school.

Each summer Mr. Mac rented a house at Ocean Drive Beach for a week-long outing of fun for McColl FFA members.

I participated in my first State FFA Convention in 1947 where I heard the President of Clemson College speak along with other dignitaries. We also competed in numerous contests. At the close of my third convention in 1949 I was elected President of the South Carolina FFA Association.



President Dwight D. Eisenhower welcomes South Carolina's Jimmy Willis (third from left), 1952-53 National FFA Secretary, and the other national officers to the White House.

One of the highlights of that special year was the joint meeting of FFA and Junior Homemakers of America at the State Fair in October 1949 where over 13,000 students attended at the USC stadium. I had the high honor of presenting the Honorary State Farmer Degree to Governor Strom Thurmond.

I attended the National FFA Convention as an official delegate in 1949. Imagine what it was like to see in person Eddie Fisher and Debbie Reynolds, Charlie McCarthy, Edgar Bergen, Dr. I. Q. and the President of the United States along with top corporate executives.

In 1952 I was elected the National FFA Student Secretary. The first issue of the *National Future Farmer* magazine was published that year and in the spring of 1953, the United States Postal Service issued a stamp honoring the twenty-fifth anniversary of the FFA. The Goodwill Tour for the National FFA Officers began in Washington, DC, where we visited President Dwight Eisenhower in the Oval Office.

The final day of the National FFA Convention was highlighted by addresses from USDA Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson, Oveta Culp Hobby, US Secretary of Education and President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

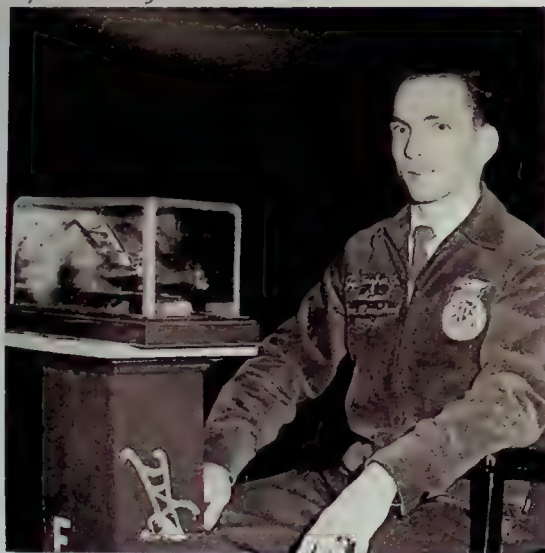
After graduation from Clemson University in Agricultural Education, I was employed by the National FFA Organization before entering the private sector, first in television advertising sales and later as president and CEO of my own advertising company until my recent retirement. I know from personal experience that the FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. I recommend the FFA to any person who seeks to experience life in its fullest and best!

Jimmy Willis, formerly of Clio, SC, and a graduate of McColl High School where he was an FFA member, served as the national FFA Student Secretary in 1952-53. A retired Advertising Executive and CEO, he and his family reside in Midlothian, Virginia.



The Training, Experience and Impact of FFA On My Life

By Dr. Joe Hughes



Joe Hughes, National FFA Vice President from South Carolina, at the National FFA Convention in 1960.

I would like to pay tribute to those who influenced and inspired me to participate in the FFA. They include agricultural teachers, Ben Blackwell, Ed Small, Arthur Schlock and Nolan Barnett; my parents, Joe and Nell Hughes; Mr. W.E. Gore, State Supervisor of Vocational Agriculture; Mr. Frank Barton, State FFA Executive Secretary; Mr. W.M. Harris, District Supervisor, Vocational Agriculture; James E.

Participation in the FFA allowed me to develop and implement life skills.

Byrnes High School (Duncan, SC) administrators and other teachers; local farmers and livestock producers; leaders in South Carolina's agriculture industry; FFA sponsors and fellow FFA members. I realize that some of these are now deceased but their spirits continue in my heart.

My dedicated and talented agricultural teachers shared their knowledge and skill in such a professional manner that I was

challenged to experience "learning by doing" in the show ring or competing in contests such as public speaking, parliamentary procedure or land judging. My parents supported the respect and discipline commanded by my teachers and my teachers supported the principles my parents taught me at home.

Participation in the FFA allowed me to develop and implement life skills such as honesty, integrity, dependability, a positive attitude, persistency, leadership, teamwork, work

ethic, communication skills, sportsmanship, financial management, self-discipline and responsibility.

Ben Blackwell made sure each FFA member had an animal project. His requirements for proper daily care of the animal led me to a positive attitude about the pride of ownership and accomplishment. Record-keeping procedures highlighted animal production/performance, efficiencies and financial management.

After serving as State FFA President, I was elected a National FFA Vice President in 1959-60. As a National Officer, I participated in the Goodwill Tour by visiting some of the nation's top companies where I observed their organizational structure, production processes and their role in American agricultural industry. In 1960, I was asked to represent the National FFA at the United States Exhibit at the Berlin Industries Fair, West Berlin, Germany. I experienced the appreciation of the West Berlin people for America and I witnessed, through supervised tours, the poor quality of life

suffered by the people behind the Iron Curtain in East Berlin.

The FFA had a positive influence in my military career. I was commissioned a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army Reserve upon graduation from Clemson, proudly served two years of active duty, including one in Vietnam, and retired after 30 years as a Lt. Colonel.

Career exploration was an important part

The FFA experience continues to have positive effects as I improve my life skills on a daily basis.

of my high school FFA experience. I had an opportunity to visit some of the outstanding purebred beef cattle operations in a number of states. These visits along with my selecting, feeding, managing and exhibiting market steers at major livestock shows and establishing a herd of registered Angus cattle solidified my decision to study Animal Science. I earned a BS degree in Animal Science at Clemson and two graduate degrees at Oklahoma State University. I was employed by Oklahoma State University as the Extension 4-H Livestock Specialist, where I interacted with 4-H and FFA members, agricultural education instructors, extension professionals and others in the livestock industry.

The FFA experience continues to have positive effects as I improve my life skills on a daily basis. I strive to follow the directive in the FFA motto, "Living to Serve!" I am grateful for the FFA!

Dr. Joe Hughes, formerly of Duncan, where he was an FFA member, served as National FFA Vice President in 1959-60. He is retired from Oklahoma State University and resides with his family in Stillwater, Oklahoma.



What the FFA Means To Me

By Robert Rish



President Lyndon B. Johnson welcomes Robert Rish (left), National FFA Vice President from SC, and the other National FFA Officers to the White House.

It was foregone conclusion as a 1960 high school freshman that I would enroll in vocational agriculture and join the FFA. That decision was among the most important and career-molding of my life.

My first challenge was to learn and recite publicly the National FFA Creed (which was longer and harder than the motto). With the guidance of my FFA Advisor I purchased a pedigree pig as my first project. At three months she broke a leg but was such a beautiful gilt that I showed her anyway at the State Fair.

In preparation for the District FFA Speaking contest I had been groomed and trained for inflection and gestures by one of the finest public speaking coaches in the state. At the competition, however, I

My decision to join FFA proved to be among the most important and career-molding of my life.

forgot my speech – a disappointment, but I was not deterred. As a member of the Parliamentary Procedure Team the state contest was ours! The same was true of the Soil Judging competition where our team took top state honors. This resulted in our Chapter's first participation in the National Soil Judging Finals in Oklahoma.

Success became more regular and I was awarded the State Farmer Degree. Then my advisor announced that I should be a state FFA officer. When my third state convention ended I was the State FFA President. A young lady sent me a note which read, "It is good to know that I once argued parliamentary procedure with a state officer." Wow! My life was really being affected by the FFA. Shortly after that we had our first date and now she is my wife and the mother of our three children.

I took time out of college to serve as the official delegate to the National FFA Convention. As the State FFA President, I had many speaking engagements and mingled with FFA members who, upon reflection, were as awed by my presence as I had been when I met a state officer.

At the 1967 National FFA Convention I was named the National Vice President for the Southern Region. As a National FFA Officer, I visited the board rooms of some of America's largest companies and met individuals of great influence in business and industry. They allowed me to see that I could achieve positions of responsibility if I was willing to make the commitment. I also met the President of the United States who recognized that the FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of young people.

The experiences I mentioned here are lessons in PRINCIPLE. They do not disappear when you take off the blue and gold jacket for the last time. Honesty, hard work, knowledge, goal setting and treating others fairly are all traits that last a lifetime. They become the fiber of our being and contribute to excellence in our professional career.

When I think of what the FFA has meant to me, I remember dedicated advisors, parents, mentors and friends who shared a wholesome lifestyle and prodded me on to success. As a result of that influence, I have completed a thirty year career in the Navy, culminated by having had command of two nuclear submarines and a major Naval

As the State FFA President, I had many speaking engagements and mingled with FFA members who, upon reflection, were as awed by my presence as I had been when I met a state officer.

Station. Presently embarked on a second career, I find that those values learned in the FFA apply universally to all endeavors.

I shall forever be grateful to my high school FFA Advisor, Frank R. Stover, Sr., who challenged me early on as an FFA member to reach for the sky and achieve greatness in life. God Bless the FFA!

Captain Robert Rish, formerly of Pelion, where he was an FFA member, served as National FFA Vice President in 1967-68. He is a retired Navy Captain who resides with his family in Summerville.



Thompson Is First Female State FFA Officer

By Phillip M. Fravel



Tempie Thompson Lyons with her 1973-74 State FFA Officer jacket.

this achievement, Tempie was the first female to receive the State Farmer Degree awarded by the SC FFA Association. She was also the first female delegate to the National FFA Convention from SC and the first one to be awarded the American FFA Degree.

Tempie is married and living in the St. Louis, Missouri area. She and her husband, Robert Lyons, are employed at Scott Air Force Base. The extracurricular activities of their 12 year-old daughter, Kendra, keeps them busy.

With nearly thirty years of history behind her now, Tempie was eager to discuss some of her experiences in FFA. "In retrospect, my year as a state FFA officer was not nearly as exciting as it seemed at the time – compared to the opportunities today's FFA members have," she said. "I did not think I was charting new territory when I ran for a state FFA office in 1973. It just seemed like the right thing to do and serving was definitely an opportunity for tremendous growth and maturity," she added.

"What I thought were inconsequential decisions at the time certainly helped me get where I am today," she said. Her decision to

participate in FFA activities eventually led to her being voted high school superlative "Most Likely To Succeed" and being named a James F. Byrnes Scholarship recipient. She graduated from Clemson with a BS Degree in Agriculture and joined the USDA-Soil Conservation Service. Trouble with allergies ended her agriculture career and she began a career with the Air Force, the Navy and finally, to a broad activity with the Department of Defense. With a Masters Degree in Business, Tempie has a management position in the information technology arena, directly supporting the war fighters.

The lessons she learned in FFA have been life-long. She learned how to achieve dreams. "I realized that we always have time for our priorities and no matter what the challenge, God is always there and provides others to help us," she concluded.

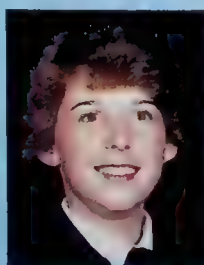
Phillip M. Fravel is a Clemson University Agriculture faculty member and a Regional Coordinator of Agricultural Education.

Green Was First African-American Female SC FFA President



Kimberly Green, a former President of the Manning High School FFA Chapter, was the first African-American female to serve as President of the South Carolina FFA Association in 1997-98. Her high school advisor was Michael Haynes.

Staggs Was First Female State FFA President



Laurie Staggs, a member of the Dorman High School FFA Chapter in Spartanburg, was elected as the first female State FFA President in 1981. Her Advisor was Gerald Moore. Laurie lives in Aiken and is married to Russell Waters. They have two sons. Among other things, Laurie and her family are very active in Rodeos.

Parker Was First African-American Male SC FFA President

Frank Parker, a graduate of St. Matthews High School, was the first African-American male to serve as President of the SC FFA Association. He

served in 1980-81. His high school FFA advisor, Dr. Alvin Larke, is now Professor of Agricultural Education at Texas A & M University.

Some Of South Carolina's Outstanding Agricultural Educators



Floyd D. Johnson (deceased) of York. Education Advisor to Presidents John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson.



George McKenzie (deceased) of Darlington. Advisor to Jimmy Willis, first SC FFA member to serve as a National FFA Officer.



Curtis Pennington of Starr. With Kyle Hatcher, State FFA President 2001-02 and Josh Shea, State FFA Vice President. Mr. Pennington was the Agricultural Education teacher in Anderson for many years.



Jack Black of Greenville. FFA Advisor and agriculture teacher of former Governor Carroll A. Campbell, Jr.



R.T. Harris of Westminster.



L.J. Blakely of Easley.



Dr. Harold Mackey of Williamston.



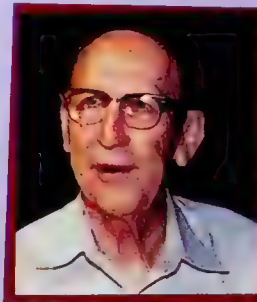
R.M. Jones, center, (deceased) of Pendleton. With L.L. Lewis and student Thomas Lee Martin.



Maxey P. Nolan of Florence.



E.B. Earle of McBee.



Howard Dantzler of Orangeburg, taught at Cameron.



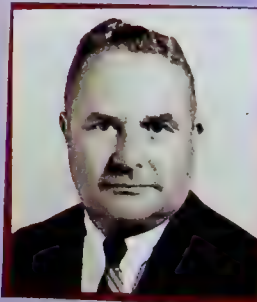
Ben E. Blackwell (deceased) of Duncan. With former students Hugh McClimon (left) and Dr. Joe Hughes.



M.P. Black (deceased) of Orangeburg.



Drefus Williams of Sumter.



H.O. Tyler (deceased) of Allendale.



Spencer Smith of Wagener.

South Carolina Leaders Who Are Former FFA Members



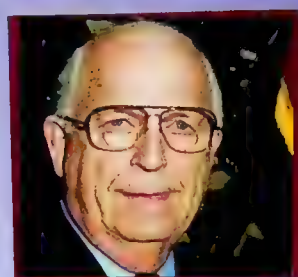
Governor Robert E. McNair
Columbia



Governor Carroll A. Campbell, Jr.
Georgetown



Grady L. Patterson, Jr.
State Treasurer, Columbia



D. Leslie Tindal, State Commissioner
of Agriculture, Pinewood



Donald H. Holland – State
Senator and former State FFA
President, Camden



Dr. Laurie C. Lawson – Farmer & Exec.
Assistant to VP for Public Service and
Agriculture, Clemson University, Darlington



Tom Welsh – Executive VP AgFirst
Farm Credit Bank, Columbia



Charles R. Sharpe – Member, SC
House of Representatives, Wagener



Walter P. Lloyd – Member, SC House
of Representatives & retired State Ag.
Education Official, Walterboro



Dr. O. Wray Smith – Superintendent,
Anderson School District Four,
Pendleton



Edsel Williams – Farmer and
Secretary National Young Farmers
Association, Britton's Neck



Dr. Steven E. Meadows – Resident
Director, Edisto Research and
Education Center, Blackville



Marty W. Coates – Member, SC House of
Representatives and former National
FFA Officer, Florence



Benjie Rhoad (left), retired State Executive, SC Farm Bureau Federation, Lexington; Dr. Tom Dobbins, Program
Coordinator, Agricultural Education, Clemson; and Keith Cox, President, SC Agricultural Educators Association
2001-02, Latta. All three are former SC FFA Association Presidents.

Pickens Middle School Is "Best Of The Best"

By Tommy Gladden

The Pickens Middle School was one of four of the Palmetto State's finest schools recognized earlier this year as the "Best Of The Best." Governor Jim Hodges and State Superintendent Inez Tenenbaum along with other state officials recognized the four as the outstanding schools in the state selected from thirteen finalists at a ceremony in Columbia. This award is equivalent to the "Academy Award" in education.

The Pickens school had been a state finalist before and had also been recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School and a National

This award is equivalent to the
"Academy Award" in education.

Service Learning Project Site. Among the reasons for Pickens Middle School's selection this year was the involvement of the student body in active learning and hands-on experiences which provided the students more places to excel.

One of the major assets of the school is the Agricultural Education Program headed up by Kallie Hillyard. In her third year of teaching she has developed a program that offers students

wonderful opportunities to succeed. Her program adds value to the total school curriculum and connects with other classes at the school. Sixth, seventh and eighth grade students are very involved in an active learning approach where they have the benefit of a challenging and rewarding program. The experiences provide the students with motivation to achieve.

When one enters the classroom, they notice something very different and unique. The classroom is full of animals, projects and students. Mrs. Hillyard uses rabbits, guinea pigs and hatching eggs to teach responsibility and emotional development in addition to agricultural principles and practices.

Students are very involved in the FFA at the local and state level. Members participate in a number of statewide activities such as Horse Judging, Dairy Foods, Dairy Cattle Judging, and Public Speaking competition. During the past year the Middle School FFA members placed sixth in the State FFA Equine Science

Competition. This is a real achievement since most students competing in this contest are juniors and seniors from other schools.

The students contribute to the strength of the school by assisting with the appearance of the facilities and that special touch and care that every good agricultural education program brings to a school. FFA members landscaped the school by planting flowers and shrubs in the school courtyard and the outside of the buildings. They also worked on the school nature trail to re-establish it. The agricultural education students continue to take on a number of projects around the school and work diligently to make theirs an award-winning program in an award-winning school. Congratulations!

Tommy Gladden is the State Leader for Agricultural Education headquartered at Clemson University.



The FFA Is Alive And Well In South Carolina

By Jim Scott

FFA membership in South Carolina has increased by nearly 20 percent since school year 1999-2000 and the National FFA Organization presented the South Carolina FFA Association a special Membership Growth Recognition Plaque at the National FFA Convention in Louisville, Kentucky, the past two years.

In addition to FFA membership growth in South Carolina, participation has increased in Career Development Events, Leadership Training Workshops, Proficiency Awards Competition, the Camping Program, the State FFA-sponsored Legislator Appreciation Day Program, the South Carolina FFA Association Luncheon at the State Fair, the National FFA Convention and the SC Agricultural Educators and SC FFA Association-sponsored Flowering Plants

Presentation Ceremony at the State Capitol.

FFA members continue to discover the many opportunities that await them as they develop leadership skills, experience personal growth and prepare for career success through agricultural education.

Jim Scott is a Regional Coordinator for Agricultural Education with Clemson University and Executive Director of the SC FFA.



What Is Happening In The FFA

By Hobson Fulcher

The FFA Organization continues to grow with more than 457,000 members, age 12-21, in 7,300 chapters in the 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. According to information provided by the National FFA Organization, there are FFA Chapters in ten of the fifteen largest cities in the United States, including New York, Chicago and Philadelphia.

Ninety percent of the FFA members in America are in grades 9 through 12. There is an increased interest in agricultural education courses in the middle schools which now have as many FFA members as there are high school graduate members. About one-fourth of the membership nationwide live in rural farm areas while nearly 40 percent live in rural non-farm areas and one third live in urban and suburban areas.

There are more than 12,000 agricultural education teachers in the nation delivering an innovative and cutting-edge curriculum. Ninety percent of the

agricultural education programs offer agriculture science. About 60 percent teach agricultural mechanics and 50 percent offer courses in horticulture. "The greatest challenge facing the FFA and agricultural education is the teacher shortage," according to the National FFA. In South Carolina, there is an increase in agricultural education majors at Clemson University with over 100 students enrolled in undergraduate and graduate programs at the present time.

The National FFA Organization reports that members earn \$4 billion annually through supervised "hands-on" work experiences, either on the farm, in agribusiness or related areas, where they apply the knowledge learned in the agriculture classroom or laboratory. According to a student magazine readership study, 87 percent of FFA members are interested in career information, 81 percent in college preparation and 81 percent in technology.

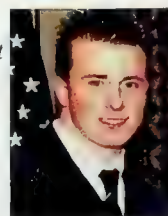
At the national level, FFA enjoys financial support from business, industry, organizations and individuals totaling more than \$8 million annually of which \$1.9 million is awarded as college

scholarships to FFA members. This does not include the financial support of FFA at the state and local levels which would be a very impressive figure.

Agriculture is the nation's largest employer with more than 22 million people working in one of the more than 300 career opportunities in the science, business or technology of agriculture, reports the National FFA Organization.

What is happening in the FFA? In South Carolina and throughout the nation, the mission of the FFA is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success. I expect membership in the FFA to continue on the increase with more members pursuing post high school education and life-long careers in agriculture.

Hobson Fulcher, Aiken, a State FFA Vice President in school year 2001-02.



National FFA Officers Visit Cheraw FFA Chapter

By Bruce Puette



Barrett Keene (left) with Cheraw Mayor Andy Ingram and Abbie Kammerzell.

National FFA Vice President Barrett Keene, representing the Southern Region of the United States, and Abbie Kammerzell, National Vice President, representing the Western Region, visited the Cheraw High School FFA Chapter earlier this year as a part of their study tour of South Carolina.

Mayor Andy Ingram welcomed Barrett and Abbie to Cheraw and presented them a Key to the City, a very high honor presented only to important visitors. The Mayor also signed a Proclamation designation February 16-23, 2002, as FFA Week in Cheraw.

Other dignitaries who attended the event included Jerry Holley, Chairman, Chesterfield

County School Board; Dr. Kenneth Dinkins, Superintendent of Chesterfield County Schools; Henry Cobb, Principal of Cheraw High School; Guidance Counselors; and FFA Chapter Officers Chap Allison (President); Matt Johnson (Vice President); Erica Anderson and Erica Hipps (Reporters); Karen Hipps (Secretary); Laci Chewning (Treasurer); Bryan Harper (Sentinel); Fallon Lee (Parliamentarian); Shaday Cash (Chaplain); and Jay Roscoe, Blake Jacobs, Craig Turnage (Ushers).

Bruce Puette is the Ag Ed teacher at Cheraw High School, Cheraw.

The SC FFA-Sponsored State Legislators Appreciation Day Ceremony



The SC FFA-Sponsored State Legislators Appreciation Day Ceremony was held Wednesday, February 20, 2002, in Columbia. FFA members and advisors from throughout the state are shown gathering on the Capitol steps along with State Legislators, Constitutional Officers and Agricultural Education Leaders. John W. Parris, Director of Public Affairs with the SC FFA, coordinates the annual event.



Hank Stallworth (left), Director of Natural Resources Policy with the Governor's Office, presents Kyle Hatcher, State FFA President 2001-02, with a Proclamation signed by Governor Jim Hodges, recognizing the 75th Anniversary of the FFA and the observance of National FFA Week in South Carolina.



State Representative Charles R. Sharpe, Chairman of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, presented a Joint Resolution by the House of Representatives and the Senate to State FFA Officers Kyle Hatcher, Hobson Fulcher and Jennifer Perdue. The Resolution recognized the 75th Anniversary of the FFA and the observance of National FFA Week.

More Photos Of The 2002 State Legislators Appreciation Day Ceremony



Marty Coates (left front), a member of the House of Representatives and a former National FFA Officer, Florence, with Benjie Rhoad, retired State Farm Bureau Official, Lexington; Frank R. Stover, Sr., Executive Director, SC FFA Foundation, Pelion; State Commissioner of Agriculture D. Leslie Tindal and State Treasurer Grady L. Patterson with some of the FFA members in attendance at the event.



Tommy Gladden (second from left in front), State Leader, Agricultural Education, Clemson University, with Billy Keels, Regional Coordinator, Agricultural Education, Florence; Pat Black, Agricultural Education Teacher at Branchville High School and a member of the Clemson University Board of Visitors, Cameron; Dr. Tom Dobbins, Program Coordinator, Agricultural Education, Clemson University; and Phil Fravel, Regional Coordinator and Faculty member, Agricultural Education, Clemson University, with some of the FFA members and agricultural education teachers.

SC FFA Association And SC Agricultural Educators Present Flowering Plants To Beautify The State Capitol



Lt. Governor Bob Peeler (second from left) received plants from Pat Black (left), the Agricultural Education Teacher at Branchville High School; Jennifer Perdue, State FFA Vice President 2001-02; and Kyle Hatcher, State FFA President 2001-02. More than 300 flats of beautiful flowering plants, grown by FFA members across the state earlier in the year, were received by Lt. Governor Peeler to be used for landscaping and beautifying the State Capital grounds. This is an annual event conducted as a joint project between the SC Agricultural Educators Association and the SC FFA Association.

SC FFA Welcomes National Leaders



Governor Jim Hodges with National FFA President Trent McKnight (right), National VP Katy Poth and State FFA President Blake Berry. The Governor welcomed the FFA Officers to the State Capitol in February 2001 and signed a Proclamation recognizing National FFA Week. The National Officers spent a week visiting FFA chapters, conducting leadership training programs, and meeting with governmental and agricultural leaders.



Christopher Harrington (right), State FFA Secretary, Manning, with nationally known Farm Broadcaster Orion Samuelson of WGN-TV and Radio, Chicago, Illinois, and a former FFA member, at Governor Jim Hodges' Summit on Agriculture and Natural Resources in March 2001. Harrington and Samuelson were featured speakers.

SC FFA Members In Action



Michael Moor, President of the Branchville HS FFA Chapter, proudly displayed the American Flag at the 2001 State FFA Convention, Legislators Appreciation Day and the Plant Presentation Ceremony at the State Capitol in 2002.



Allison Nance, a member of the York FFA Chapter, with one of her champion dairy animals. She is an active participant in dairy cattle shows throughout the upstate. She will be a freshman at Clemson University this fall.



State FFA Officers (left to right) Josh Shea, Calhoun Falls; Eric Hill, Abbeville; Kyle Hatcher, Anderson; and Hobson Fulcher, Aiken, participated in the Myrtle Beach FFA Chapter-Sponsored Golf Tournament in February, 2002.



A panoramic view of the renovated dormitories at the SC FFA Leadership Center at North Myrtle Beach.



Gary Goodman, General Manager of the SC State Fair, Columbia, welcomed State FFA Officers (left to right) Jason Creamer, Belton-Honea Path; Zac Terry, Hillcrest; Ben Hutto, Pelion; Scott Ellis, Abbeville; and Johnathan Foxworth, Latta, to the State FFA Association Luncheon at the State Fair in October 1998. This has become an annual event with increasing attendance each year. The State Fair is a great supporter of the FFA. The number of members showing animals at the State Fair has increased considerably in recent years according to Mr. Goodman. FFA members consistently win the Beef, Dairy and Swine Scholarships as well as other scholarships awarded by the State Fair each year.



Lexington County FFA Chapter Presidents (left to right) Nic Stratton, Lexington; Brandon Woods, Pelion; Josh Waters, Gilbert and Mallory Harmon, Batesburg-Leesville, with Kirby Player, Clemson University College of Agriculture, Forestry and Life Sciences, who addressed the 2002 Lexington County Farm Bureau-sponsored FFA Recognition Program held during National FFA Week.

10 Million Dollar Leadership Center Planned!

By Billy Keels



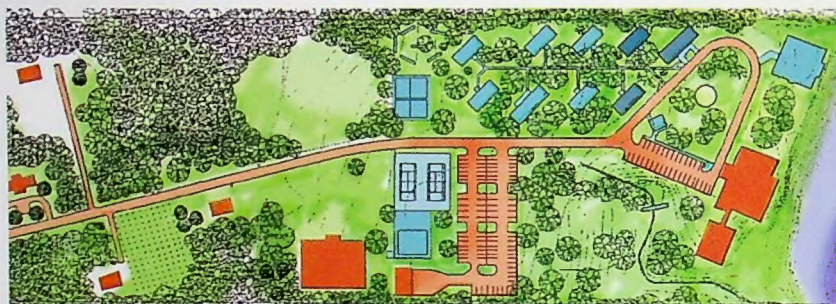
The SC FFA Association has begun development of a state-of-the-art leadership center at the Cherry Grove FFA Camp property located in North Myrtle Beach, SC. The new facility will include a Conference Building to house a dining facility with banquet-style seating capacity of 400, along with a number of conference rooms. A 24-room Lodge will be constructed adjacent to this building. All of the dormitories will be renovated similar to the four recently completed.

The gymnasium will be converted into a high-tech environmental learning center where participants can study everything from marine biology to biotechnology. Coastal Carolina University is cooperating with the SC FFA Association by offering Waites Island, the

The vast marsh adjoining the center will be utilized as an outdoor laboratory for marine biology studies.

only uninhabited barrier island in the state, for use as a part of the environmental education program. The vast marsh adjoining the center will be utilized as an outdoor laboratory for marine biology studies.

Green industry educational programs will become common place with area golf courses used as learning laboratories. Educational



Artist renderings of the new 10 million dollar Leadership Center.

programs related to the equine industry are also planned along with many others.

A museum is planned to commemorate the work of the New Farmers of America (NFA), an organization of African-American students enrolled in agricultural education prior to desegregation. The Future Farmers of America and the New Farmers of America merged into the National FFA Organization in 1965.

It is the association's goal that the center offer new and unique educational programs in a comfortable setting throughout the year.

The center property has recently been

connected to the North Myrtle Beach, water system so the infrastructure for all future construction is now in place.

Many associated with the FFA and agricultural education in South Carolina recognize this new center as the single greatest opportunity to come to the organization in its 75 year history.

For information on how to become a partner in the ten million dollar capital campaign for the center, call (843) 662-3526, extension 253 or visit the web site at www.ffasc.org.

Billy Keels, Regional Coordinator for Agricultural Education with Clemson University, Florence, is the Executive Director of the State FFA Leadership Center at North Myrtle Beach.



The FFA Mission:

To make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.

The FFA Creed:

I believe in the future of agriculture, with a faith born not of words but of deeds – achievements won by the present and past generations of agriculturists; in the promise of better days through better ways, even as the better things we now enjoy have come to us from the struggles of former years.

I believe that to live and work on a good farm, or to be engaged in other agricultural pursuits, is pleasant as well as challenging; for I know the joys and discomforts of agricultural life and hold an inborn fondness for those associations which, even in hours of discouragement, I cannot deny.

I believe in leadership from ourselves and respect from others. I believe in my own ability to work efficiently and think clearly, with such knowledge and skill as I can secure, and in the ability of progressive agriculturists to serve our own and the public interest in producing and marketing the product of our toil.

I believe in less dependence on begging and more power in bargaining; in the life abundant and enough honest wealth to help make it so – for others as well as myself; in less need for charity and more of its when needed; in being happy myself and playing square with those whose happiness depends upon me.

I believe that American agriculture can and will hold true to the best traditions of our national life and that I can exert an influence in my home and community which will stand solid for my part in that inspiring task.



The creed was written by E.M. Tiffany, and adopted at the 3rd National Convention of the FFA. It was revised at the 38th Convention and the 63rd Convention.

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